

Supervisor Romaine: Town Continues to Take Action to Help Residents and Businesses in Aftermath of Historic Flooding

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Town and FEMA officials to visit damaged sites on Wednesday and make assessments

Farmingville, NY - Since Supervisor Ed Romaine declared a State of Emergency as the rains fell early on the morning of August 13, the Town has continued to assist residents who were severely impacted by flooding. The Town has also been working with officials from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to perform a damage assessment in an effort to qualify victims of this historic weather event for any federal or state funds, or programs available. The Supervisor has asked our federal representatives to have the federal government provide FEMA assistance to victims of this disaster. On Wednesday, officials from the Town and FEMA will tour damaged sites and make damage assessments.

"The rainfall and flood damage was absolutely unprecedented in the Town," said Supervisor Romaine. "Now we have to do something about it so our residents can recover as quickly as possible. The total cost of clean-up for the Town will reach into the tens of millions of dollars and it is critical that we receive Federal reimbursement. I will continue to push our County, State and Federal officials for whatever assistance is in their power to provide."

Councilman Kevin LaValle, whose district was hit hardest by the flooding said, "I have lived in the community my entire life and never seen such flood damage. People who are struggling to recover from this disaster and I am working closely with the Supervisor in calling for our federal elected officials to provide assistance to help them get back on their feet."

Councilwoman Jane Bonner said, "Some of the North Shore communities that were hit hard by Sandy now have another clean-up to deal with. I encourage anyone who has sustained property damage, to have their homes inspected to make sure they are safe to occupy. The town is here to help, so please take advantage of the services we offer."

Councilman Tim Mazzei said, "The south shore of my district was virtually untouched by the storm while areas of Ronkonkoma and Holtsville experienced major damage. I join the Supervisor in asking for federal assistance to residents and businesses, who in some cases, lost everything and have to start all over again."

Supervisor Romaine said that the Town has estimated \$10-15 million in damage to private homes and that the Building Department has inspected more than 75 homes and condemned nine as uninhabitable. Brookhaven Town personnel are continuing to visit affected areas to assist residents and identify structural hazards and other potential dangers caused by the flooding. Residents who feel that their homes may have sustained structural damage should call 451-TOWN (8696). An inspector will visit their home to assess any significant damage that may have occurred and to determine whether it is safe to occupy.

In addition to the damage of private homes and businesses, the Town Highway Department has estimated that there has been \$15 million in damage to our roadways, while the Parks Department continues to assess damages.

Insurance Assistance Residents and business owners whose homes, apartments or businesses were damaged by the flooding can call 1-800-339-1759 to speak directly with representatives from the New York State Department of Financial Services to help with insurance related issues. Live representatives will be available on this hotline from 8 am - 10 pm through Friday evening, and over the coming weekend from 8 am to 4 pm.

"211 Hotline" New York State has also informed the Town that their "211 Hotline" will be implemented on Wednesday, August 20 to assist residents with the clean-up of their flood damaged homes. The program was first activated in the wake of Superstorm Sandy,

Debris Removal In the wake of the flooding, the Town is asking victims who have a large amount of debris resulting from clean-up to call 451-TOWN to schedule pick-up from the Town's Department of Waste Management. There are also a limited number of Red Cross flood clean-up kits available at Brookhaven Town Hall. Call 451 TOWN (8696) for more information

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- FEMA (federal flood assistance); 1-800-621-3362
- NYS Department of Financial Services; 1-800-339-1759
- NYS Office of Emergency Management; 1-518-457-2200
- Suffolk Office of Emergency Management; 1-631-852-4900
- Suffolk Price Gauging; 1-800-909-5423
- PSEG (power outages and electrical matters); 1-800-490-0075
- National Grid (natural gas); 1-800-490-0045
- American Red Cross; 631-924-6700
- American Red Cross; (Spanish Speaking); 1-800-257-7575

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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